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Message Text

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15
ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 PRS-01 /049 W
---------- 118775
R 010449Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3576
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
SECDEF
CINCPAC
CDR JCRC CP SAMAE-SAN THAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, LA
SUBJECT: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

REF: A) VIENTIANE 1554
B) VIENTIANE 2752

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR BORTHWICK AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAVE INFORMED US THAT BORTHWICK HOPES TO TRAVEL TO SAM NEUA WEEK OF MAY 5 TO SEEK INFORMATION ON SHARMAN AND DEAN FROM SENIOR LPF OFFICIALS.

2. BORTHWICK FIRST RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY IN EARLY MARCH WITH LPF VIENTIANE REPRESENTATIVE SANAN SOUTHICHAK, WHO GAVE HIM SOME ENCOURAGEMENT (REF A). HOWEVER, AUSTRALIANS MADE NO REQUEST IN WRITING AT THE TIME, AND SANAN LATER DEPARTED FOR TOUR OF VARIOUS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL
AND HAS BEEN GONE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. BORTHWICK ALSO SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY TO MFA IN
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CANBERRA AND EVENAUALLY GOT BACK INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK

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PERMISSION FOR SUCH A TRIP. HE SAW FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT APRIL 25 TO PRESENT HIS REQUEST IN WRITING AND WAS ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THE TRIP; PHOUMI THOUGHT BEST TIME WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS WEEK'S ROYAL VISIT TO SAM NEUA. PHOUMI PRESUMABLY TOOK REQUEST WITH HIM TO SAM NEUA, WHERE HE IS A MEMBER OF KING'S PARTY, AND BORTHWICK HOPES FOR EARLY FAVORABLE REPLY. IF GRANTED PERMISSION, HE WILL TRAVEL BY BRITISH ATTACHE AIRCRAFT.

4. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSED TRIP TO SAM NEUA (REF B), OF WHICH AUSTRALIANS ARE ALSO AWARE.

5. MEANWHILE, AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS PREPARED A CHRONOLOGY, MODELED ON OUR OWN, OF ITS EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF SHARMAN. THE AUSTRALIANS DO NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO DISTRIBUTE THEIR CHRONOLOGY LOCALLY: WE UNDERSTAND THAT APART FROM GIVING IT TO US THEY HAVE SENT IT ONLY TO MFA. COPIES POUCHED APRIL 30 TO D/PW AND EA/LC. DEPT MAY WISH TO PASS COPY TO DEAN FAMILY.
CHAPMAN

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